

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 9-11, with the following amended paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation of U.S.S.N. 09/716,028, filed November 17, 2000, now allowed U.S.P. 6,723,833, which is a division of U.S.S.N. 09/109,207, filed June 30, 1998, now U.S.P. 6,172,213, which is a non-provisional application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(b), claiming priority under 35 USC Section 119(e) to Provisional Application Serial No. 60/051,554 filed July 2, 1997, all of which are herein incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph on page 79, lines 3-4 with the follow amended paragraph.

Conclusion: The plots in Fig. 8 indicate that both E26 and E27 have greater affinity than E25 for the high affinity receptor IgE and that E27 showed the greatest affinity.

Please replace the paragraph on page 79, lines 19-26 with the following amended paragraph:

Dissociation data were fit to a one-site model to obtain koff +/- s.d. (standard deviation of measurements). Pseudo-first order rate constant (ks) were calculated for each association curve, and plotted as a function of protein concentration to obtain kon +/- s.e. (standard error of fit). Equilibrium dissociation constants for Fab:IgE binding, K_d 's, were calculated from SPR measurements as koff/kon. In the absence of experimental artefacts, such as re-binding of dissociated F(ab), the observed off-rate is independent of F(ab) concentration. Also, since the equilibrium dissociation constant, K_d , is inversely proportional to koff, an estimate of affinity improvement can be made assuming the association rate (kon) is a constant for all variants. The off-rates, along with calculated half-life of dissociation, are displayed in Table 18.